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## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

**January 2, 2004**

To: OPI MASS Representatives

From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Subject: Summary of OPI Activities for January 2004

Happy New Year to all! Here is a summary of the current activities at the Office of Public Instruction for January 2004. This summary can also be found at [www.opi.state.mt.us/MASSUpdates/](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/MASSUpdates/).

### Office of the State Superintendent **OPI's Yellow School Bus Tour**

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch and 15 members of her staff boarded the bus to visit Bozeman Public Schools on December 2, 2003. One of the highlights of the trip was the emphasis on arts and music education integrated into the curriculum. OPI staff were treated to a day of musical pleasures, beginning with a flute choir and ending with a concert by elementary students headed to Carnegie Hall. Staff enjoyed visiting the many schools and thank Superintendent Mike Redburn and his staff for a great day in Bozeman.

The Yellow School Bus Tour is an informal way for OPI staff to listen and learn about the current situations and diverse needs of educators across Montana. Since its inception in Spring 2002, the Yellow School Bus Tour has taken a total of 42 OPI staff on the road logging more than 3700 miles and visiting 17 communities. If you would like more information, contact OPI Tour coordinator, Jan Lombardi at [jlombardi@state.mt.us](mailto:jlombardi@state.mt.us) or 444-1641.

### **Highlights of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch's Activities for December 2003:**

- ♣ Visited schools in Bozeman with members of the OPI staff on the Yellow School Bus Tour
- ♣ Met with the Kind Acts Foundation
- ♣ Finalized process for determining AYP status of small ("TBD") schools
- ♣ Welcomed members of Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education to their December board meeting
- ♣ Taped a program on MTN-TV on Montana's response to the No Child Left Behind Act
- ♣ Addressed the MEA-MFT members in Helena for their committee weekend
- ♣ Attended the board meeting of the Retired Educators of Montana
- ♣ Addressed student teachers at Montana State University
- ♣ Participated in the monthly meeting of Ed Forum
- ♣ Attended the funeral of Dr. Jay Erdie
- ♣ As a board member, participated in the State Land Board, the Library Commission and Workforce Investment Board meetings
- ♣ Presented OPI Worlds HIV/AIDS Day Award to 16 students at Columbia Falls High School for their work in AIDS prevention

- ♣ Celebrated the holiday season with staff and presented service pins at OPI's annual holiday potluck
- ♣ Spoke with the state radio news network to encourage parents to read to their children during the holidays

### **Montana K-12 Public School Renewal Commission**

The next meeting of the School Renewal Commission will be January 12<sup>th</sup> in Helena at the State Capitol. Information regarding membership, meetings and resources is available on the web: <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/boards/renewal/default.asp>. Contact: Kris Goss, Education Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, at 406-444-3862 or [kgoss@state.mt.us](mailto:kgoss@state.mt.us). OPI Contact: Madalyn Quinlan, [mquinlan@state.mt.us](mailto:mquinlan@state.mt.us) or 406-444-3168.

### **January Board of Public Education Meeting**

The Board of Public Education will hold its next regular meeting January 15-16, 2004, in the Meeting Room of the Montana Higher Education Complex, 2500 Broadway, Helena, Montana. Tentative BPE agenda items from the OPI include the regular Superintendent's Report, a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Update, the Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey report, the Annual Transportation Report, an Online Teacher Certification Renewal Process Update, an Emergency Authorization for Employment Report, a Procedure for Licensure Suspension and Revocation Report, and a Report of a License Surrender. Action items include approval of Advice and Deficiency Improvement Plans and approval of Five-Year Renewal of Alternative Standards Requests. Contacts are Board of Public Education Executive Secretary Steve Meloy, (406) 444-6576, or Deputy Superintendent Spencer Sartorius, (406) 444-4434.

### **New Montana NCLB Report Card Website**

The No Child Left Behind Act requires all school districts and the Office of Public Instruction to provide a public "Report Card" detailing how Montana schools and districts are meeting the current requirements of the new law. OPI has constructed a new website that will meet this NCLB requirement at both the state and local levels. Local districts can refer public requests for NCLB Report Card information to the new OPI website. Local districts are not required to develop their own NCLB Report Cards.

During the week of Jan. 5, districts will be emailed a "secure website" to preview the new Report Card and the information pertaining to their schools. After the information has been reviewed, the Report Card will be released to the public the week of Jan. 19.

The contents of the Report Card will include for schools, districts and the state:

- ♣ Report Card Overview
- ♣ Adequate Yearly Progress Status
- ♣ Reading and Math Assessment Scores by subgroup
- ♣ Graduation, enrollment, and/or attendance rates
- ♣ Status of highly qualified teachers

### **Small School Adequate Yearly Progress Update**

On December 1 and 2, educators from around the state participated in the "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) review process for 173 of Montana's smallest schools. NCLB requires states to develop a review process for schools too small to be statistically analyzed by the regular AYP process. On December 15, the review team met again to determine the AYP status of the remaining 18 schools whose AYP status was not determined during Phases I & II of the process. The recommendations of the review teams were presented to the State Superintendent for final consideration on December 17.

Final, official notification of AYP determinations will be sent to all schools on the week of January 12, and the information will be released to the public the week of January 19. As provided for by NCLB, schools and districts believing they have additional evidence that may affect their AYP determination will have 30 days after official notification to ask the OPI for a formal review of that AYP determination. OPI Contact: Al McMilin, Assessment Specialist, 406-444-3128, [amcmilin@state.mt.us](mailto:amcmilin@state.mt.us).

### **OPI Web Survey**

The OPI website is an essential communication vehicle for providing education information to educators and the public. Superintendent Linda McCulloch is seeking information on how we can best meet your needs. Look for a short survey to be coming your way this January asking you for feedback. By simply investing five-minutes to answer survey questions, you will help us to learn how we can enhance the OPI website. The survey will be sent to you via Official Email and posted on the OPI home page (<http://www.opi.state.mt.us>). For more information, contact the Internet Services Bureau staff at 444-3563, Cheri Bergeron at 444-2082 or Jan Lombardi at 444-1641.

### **Five Montana Teachers Achieve National Board Certification in 2003**

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards announced in November that five Montana teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2003. These teachers are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>Certificate Area</u>
Carol Annin	Billings Elementary	Middle Childhood/General
Jamie Garvey	Laurel Elem	Early Childhood/Generalist
Kristeen Keup	Billings HS	Adolescence and Young Adulthood/ English Language Arts
Terry Thall	Great Falls Elem	Early and Middle Childhood/Art
Carolyn Thayer	Billings HS	Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art

Candidates for National Board Certification undergo a rigorous assessment that includes videotaped classroom teaching, written explanations of teaching strategies, and probing self-analysis that asks that fundamental question: Is my teaching effective in helping my students learn?

Congratulations to these exceptional teachers! To learn more about National Board Certification and the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation's support for NBC candidates, visit the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation website at [www.mea-mft.org/mptf.html](http://www.mea-mft.org/mptf.html).

### Education Licensure

#### **Online Renewal: Convenient and Instantaneous**

Online renewal became an option for Montana educators in September 2003. Since that time 49 educators have used this option to renew their license. Educators that have chosen this renewal option report that online renewal is quick and user friendly. Additionally, the minute the online renewal is completed the information is in the OPI database and can be accessed by anyone wanting to verify the educator's credentials.

#### **Renewing in 2004 & Receiving an Official License**

Educators whose licenses are expiring in 2004 may renew after January 1, 2004. By visiting the OPI Web page at [www.opi.state.mt.us/cert](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/cert), teachers, administrators, and specialists can expedite their renewal process by renewing online. At the conclusion of the online renewal

process, educators may request a license be sent from the Educator Licensure office or print the license from their computer. The document generated by an educator's computer at the conclusion of the online renewal process is an "official" license. Montana law provides that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction issue all Educator Licenses in the State of Montana. (MCA §20-4-103). Inherent in that power is the authority to design and generate the form and substance of any document that represents the license. As part of the new online renewal process, Superintendent McCulloch created another form of license. The paper license printed at the successful completion of the online renewal process has equal weight to a paper license generated by the staff at the Office of Public Instruction. In both cases, the State Superintendent issues the license, and the educator has met the legal requirements to teach in Montana. A license generated online has the same legal and practical effect as a license generated the traditional way; it is simply issued using a different process. OPI Contact: Margaret Bowles (444-2580) or e-mail [mbowles@state.mt.us](mailto:mbowles@state.mt.us).

### **Survey regarding the Montana Jobs for Teachers web page**

Based on numerous calls from school superintendents asking for help in filling open teaching positions in their district, OPI is seeking information to enhance the *OPI Montana Jobs for Teachers* web page: <http://jobsforteachers.opi.state.mt.us/>. It appears that this web resource is under-utilized. Before making any changes to this web tool, OPI would like input from the field to ensure that this web page serves as a powerful recruitment tool for school districts and applicants. Your OPI representative will bring copies of the surveys to the January MASS meetings. If individuals do not have time to discuss the survey during MASS meetings or would like to offer additional suggestions, the survey can be obtained online after January 9, 2004. To obtain an electronic copy of the survey, visit the Educator Licensure Web page at [www.opi.state.mt.us/cert](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/cert). Look for "Jobs for Teachers Web Page Survey." Responses should be sent to Margaret Bowles at [mbowles@state.mt.us](mailto:mbowles@state.mt.us), or mailed to the Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501, or faxed to 406-444-3924.

### **Assessment**

The Nov./Dec. JUMP newsletter contains current information on the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System including a table on MontCAS, Phases 1 and 2.  
<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/newsletters/NovDec2003AssessNews.pdf>

### **Coding of Ethnicity for Spring 2004 Statewide Testing**

For both MontCAS Phases 1 and 2, racial/ethnicity coding will be limited to one of the following:

- ♣ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ♣ Asian
- ♣ Black or African American
- ♣ Hispanic
- ♣ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ♣ White

These categories are consistent with the Fall Enrollment MAEFAIRS Count. The "Other" category will not be used.

### **Student Participation in Statewide Testing**

All students enrolled in accredited Montana schools in grades 4, 8, and 11 are required to take MontCAS, Phase 1-- *ITBS* at grades 4 and 8 and the *ITED* at grade 11--and MontCAS, Phase 2, the criterion-referenced test (CRT) at grades 4, 8, and 10. This includes the following groups of students:

- ♣ Students identified as having disabilities, including Section 504 students, must be tested according to the requirements established by their Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans.
- ♣ Students who have been identified as having Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or who have been instructed in English for three or more years must take the Iowa Tests (ARM 10.56.101). Foreign exchange students are also required to participate in the testing. However, their scores will not be calculated into overall scores at any level.
- ♣ Part-time students: A school district must include in the statewide student assessment any student, in the grades designated for assessment, who is enrolled in the district for 180 hours or more for the school year and has not reached the age of 19.

### **Training Sessions Planned**

Test administration training for both phases of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System by videoconference will be offered on Feb. 12 and 13, 2004. The session on February 12 is intended for test coordinators. The session on February 13 is essential for special education directors and special education teachers. Both sessions will be videotaped and available for checkout. Checkout information will be included in the January JUMP newsletter. Two follow-up Question and Answer sessions will be offered. On Feb. 18, the Q&A session will be offered online via video stream. On Feb. 19, the session will be offered by videoconference. Registration information and a link to registration and materials for all sessions will be provided in the January JUMP newsletter.

### **Survey regarding the Future of the NRT Testing Requirement**

Thank you to all the school systems that responded to the OPI survey on the *Future of the Norm-Referenced Test (NRT)*. OPI received survey responses from 153 school districts. The results of the survey will be analyzed and presented to State Superintendent Linda McCulloch and the Assessment Task Force of the Board of Public Education in mid-January 2004. The Assessment Task Force will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Helena to develop a recommendation on the future of the NRT to the Board of Public Education.

OPI would like to extend a special thank you to Wes Snyder of the University of Montana for his assistance in developing the survey and preparing a written analysis of the results. For more information on the survey instrument, go to <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment>.  
OPI Contact: Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, 406-444-3656, or [jsnow@state.mt.us](mailto:jsnow@state.mt.us).

### **“Preparing for the CRT” Video**

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/crt/>

OPI has just released a streaming video entitled "Preparing for the CRT." The video was recorded and edited digitally by the Internet Services Bureau at OPI. This web video has a unique feature that allows the viewer to follow along by clicking on the slide show embedded within the Web page. Users can also use their Left/Right keyboard arrows to "travel" back and forth within the slide show.

In order to take full advantage of this technology, open your web browser by clicking on the URL above, resize the page so that it takes up approximately half your screen. Now drag the browser window to the right hand side of your computer screen. Click the "Watch Now" button, and then click back on the slide show to make the Web page and slide show active.

#### Career, Adult and Technical Education Division

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Public Instruction distributed \$250,000 to 157 school districts for secondary vocational education programs. The payments ranged from \$94 for Willow Creek HS district to \$20,654 for Billings High School district. The average district payment was \$1,592. The Governor announced the allocation of this funding to schools in November as part of her allocation of federal monies from the economic stimulus package. These monies augment the \$715,000 that the legislature allocated for FY04 for secondary vocational education programs. OPI Contact: Jody Messinger, Administrator, Career, Adult and Technical Education Division, 444-9019, or [jmessinger@state.mt.us](mailto:jmessinger@state.mt.us).

#### 2004-05 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program is funded from the Title IV, Part A, Subpart 6, Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, Higher Education Amendments of 1992.

Approximately 23 scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding Montana seniors and graduates of GED programs. Each scholarship is \$1,500 annually and may be renewed three times during undergraduate study, if the students maintain eligibility. The purpose of the scholarship is "to promote student excellence and achievement and to recognize exceptionally able students who show promise of continued excellence." Scholarships will be equitably distributed across geographic regions of the state. Applications will be read and rated by a team of reviewers.

An applicant must meet the following **minimum qualifications**:

- ♣ Be a graduating senior or a graduating GED student for the 2003-04 school year;
- ♣ Have a 3.60 or higher GPA in a college preparatory curriculum and have a cumulative score of 1380 on the SAT, or 30 on the ACT;
- ♣ Use the scholarship award for the first year of study, renewable for up to three additional years, as a full-time student at any public or private institution of higher education, as defined by 34 CFR-668.2. Proprietary institutions are not included and neither are nonprofit institutions that only provide training programs of less than one year; and
- ♣ Be a resident of Montana and a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the United States.

The 2004-05 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application can be found on the Web page <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Scholarships/index.html>. The applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2004**. If you have any questions, please call Carol Gneckow, (406) 444-2417 or e-mail, [cgneckow@state.mt.us](mailto:cgneckow@state.mt.us).

#### 2004 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program Delegates

The Office of Public Instruction is proud to announce that Matthew R. Maloy and Christopher M. Whaley of Helena High School will represent Montana as delegates for the 2004 U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program. Alex Hayes of Loyola Sacred Heart High School and Leonard Thurmond of Butte Central Catholic High School were selected as alternates.

During the week of February 28-March 6, 2004, Matthew and Christopher will be immersed in an intensive on-site study of federal government. Visits to the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, U. S. Supreme Court and the Pentagon will be interspersed with hours at various Smithsonian museums. They will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, and officials of the Departments of State and others.



Each year, the scholarship program selects two outstanding high school juniors or seniors from each state to receive an all-expense-paid week in Washington, D.C. and a \$5,000 college scholarship, funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. This year 461 Montana high school students competed for the award.

We join their families, friends and teachers in congratulating all four of these outstanding high school students on this achievement! OPI Contact: Carol Gneckow, (406) 444-2417 or e-mail, [cgneckow@state.mt.us](mailto:cgneckow@state.mt.us) or visit the Web page <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/scholarships/index.html>

#### Health Enhancement and Safety Division

##### *Coordinated School Health*

#### **Bomb Threat Response Planning Tool**

The U.S. Departments of Justice and Education have produced a CD-ROM for schools to use as a tool to develop an effective crisis plan in the event of a bomb threat. The FREE interactive program is available for order or download at [www.threatplan.org](http://www.threatplan.org).

#### **A Free Drug-Prevention Guide**

"Anti-Drug Education with The New York Times: Focus on Marijuana," is a guide designed to help teens recognize the risks of marijuana use and develop skills to resist using illicit drugs. The guide features worksheets, appendices and additional resources. Educators may use *The New York Times* as a source of texts and activities to reinforce important anti-drug messages and skills. The guide also uses lesson designed to reinforce objectives outlined by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). To download your copy of this guide, visit [www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/focusonmarijuana](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/focusonmarijuana)

#### **New Guide Helps Schools Plan for Crises**

As part of its continuing efforts to help keep our teachers and students safe, the U.S. Department of Education recently released a new guide to assist schools in planning for any emergency, including natural disasters, violent incidents and terrorist acts.

Using key concepts of good crisis planning, *Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities* lists four areas of crisis management that all school crisis plans should address:

- Mitigation-Prevention, which addresses what schools and districts can do to reduce or eliminate risk to life and property;
- Preparedness, which focuses on the process of planning for the worst-case scenario;
- Response, which is devoted to the steps to take during a crisis; and
- Recovery, which deals with how to restore the learning and teaching environment after a crisis.

Because districts have different needs and face a variety of hazards, the guide also describes how several districts across the country have approached crisis planning. Some districts are likely to face tornados or severe weather, while others must address the hazards posed by being close to a nuclear power plant or railroad tracks. Please visit the web page [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan) to download the guide or for more information.

#### **New GRANTS.GOV Website**

HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson unveiled a new comprehensive web site that will contain information about finding and applying for all federal grant programs. The site is intended to make it easier for organizations to apply for grants from 26 federal agencies. Access the site at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

### **Managing Asthma in Schools**

The CDC has released two documents that address asthma management:

- *Managing Asthma: A guide for schools* is an action guide offering practical steps for schools to implement management programs. It is available for a small cost from <http://email.nhlbi.nih.net/product2.asp?source=&sku=02-2650>.
- *Implementation Guide for School Use* is an educational CD-ROM for children age 7 to 15 that helps teach about asthma management concepts in a fun way. Free copies of the CD and an implementation guide are available from [www.starbright.org](http://www.starbright.org) or call 1-800-315-2580 ext.5.

### School Nutrition Program

#### **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Update**

On December 23, Secretary Veneman announced that USDA had diagnosed a presumptive positive case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), otherwise known as “mad cow disease,” in an adult Holstein cow in the state of Washington. The materials where the BSE agent resides, i.e., the brain, spinal cord, distal ileum, did not enter the food supply. Muscle cuts of meat (the parts used for human consumption) have almost no risk of BSE. According to our Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA has purchased none of the implicated beef products for distribution through the National School Lunch Program, or other Federal food and nutrition programs. Out of an abundance of caution, the USDA will conduct a recall as soon as investigators have determined the extent of beef products that may contain parts of the infected animal. For further information, contact The United States Department of Agriculture [www.USDA.gov](http://www.USDA.gov) or School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501.

#### **Best Practice Awards deadline March 15, 2004**

The deadline to submit nominations for the Best Practice Awards to School Nutrition Programs is March 15. The four categories include: Reaching Needy Children in the Summer, Increasing School Breakfast Program Access, Increasing Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables by Participants, and the Healthy School Nutrition Environment. The nomination form is posted on the School Nutrition Programs website at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood/index.html>. For more information, contact School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501

#### **Recess Before Lunch-A Guide for Success**

Free copies of the guide can be ordered by contacting the Montana Team Nutrition Program or by visiting the School Nutrition Programs website.

Team Nutrition Program  
Montana State University  
Attn: Katie Bark  
(406) 994-5641  
[kbark@state.mt.us](mailto:kbark@state.mt.us)

School Nutrition Programs  
(406) 444- 2501  
<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood/index.html>

#### **Defeating Diabetes in Indian County – How School Food Service Can Help**

January 29, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Missoula, Great Falls, Havre, Browning (pending), Shelby and Bozeman. This workshop was originally scheduled to occur in Great Falls on



October 30 but was cancelled due to a snowstorm. This free workshop is geared to school food service personnel, administrators, and community members on or near Montana Indian reservations. Pre-registration information is required and is available from the Montana Team Nutrition Program. OPI Contact: Katie Bark, Team Nutrition Program, Montana State University, (406) 994-5641, [kbark@state.mt.us](mailto:kbark@state.mt.us)

### **Healthy School Nutrition Environment Grant**

This mini grant program is designed to assist schools in making improvements in food offerings in the school nutrition program, vending machines, concessions, or student stores throughout the school setting. Starting in January, schools may apply for up to a \$300 grant. Funds must be used by December 31, 2004. A total of \$5,000 in mini-grants will be awarded to schools for this program. The Eat Right Montana Coalition also supports this grant program. Mini-grant applications are due by February 13, 2004. OPI Contact: Katie Bark, Team Nutrition Program, Montana State University, (406) 994-5641, [kbark@state.mt.us](mailto:kbark@state.mt.us)

### **Promoting School Nutrition Programs Grant**

This mini grant program is designed to support a student organization such as DECA, FCCLA, or student government in working with the school food service to develop a promotion for a school nutrition program. Schools may apply for up to \$1,000. Funds must be used by September 30, 2004. A total of \$4,000 will be awarded to schools through a competitive process. OPI Contact: Katie Bark, Team Nutrition Program, Montana State University, (406) 994-5641, [kbark@state.mt.us](mailto:kbark@state.mt.us)

### HIV/AIDS/STD Program

#### **Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

*With One Voice 2003* is a publication by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy that offers insight to parents, program leaders, policymakers, and the media about teen sex and pregnancy and about factors that influence teens' decisions about sex. The *With One Voice* series provides both a yearly snapshot of what Americans think about these issues as well as some sense of how their attitudes are evolving. At [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) the following are available: a downloadable version of *With One Voice*, a link to order the \$5.00 print version of the publication, a two-page summary of the publication, and a PowerPoint presentation containing survey highlights.

### Driver Education/Advanced Driver Education

#### **Master Teacher Recognition**

Nominations for recognition as a traffic education master teacher are being accepted until January 15, 2004. This is not an award, but recognition of those teachers who have become proficient to a level worthy of recognition as a master teacher. There is no limit to how many can qualify in a year. Applications are available at [www.opi.state.mt.us/driveded](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/driveded). Contact David Huff for more information—(406) 444-4396 or [dhuff@state.mt.us](mailto:dhuff@state.mt.us).

### **New Driver Manuals**

The Department of Justice has printed new driver manuals for use with obtaining a driver license. These new manuals incorporate the law changes made by the 2003 legislature and are available from your local driver exam office. School Districts that participate in the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (schools that conduct the written driving exam on behalf of the driver exam office) should also obtain new written tests from the local driver exam office to replace the

ones currently being used. Contact Patrick McJannet at the Department of Justice—(406) 444-1772 or [pmcjannet@state.mt.us](mailto:pmcjannet@state.mt.us).

### **Driver Education Teachers with Expiring Teacher Licenses**

Approval to teach traffic (driver) education expires for traffic education teachers whose teacher license expires in 2004. In order to renew approval to teach traffic education, the teacher must renew their teacher license and also apply for approval to teach traffic education—a separate application and process that includes a check for a valid driver license and appropriate driving record. If the applicant has not yet obtained a TE-99 traffic education endorsement on their license, he or she must also show evidence of completing an additional four qualifying semester credits of traffic education coursework. Applications are available at [www.opi.state.mt.us/drivered](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/drivered). OPI Contact: Jennifer Stuebing-Verbanac, (406) 444-4432 or [jstuebing-verbanac@state.mt.us](mailto:jstuebing-verbanac@state.mt.us).

### **K-6 Teachers Eligible for Presidential Award**

Please nominate and encourage good elementary teachers, who teach mathematics or science, to apply for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award was established in 1983 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. Teachers of grades K-6 are eligible to apply for the 2004 award but may not be self-nominated. Anyone (e.g., principals, teachers, students, and other members of the general public) may nominate a teacher. Teachers' completed applications for the 2004 awards must be postmarked by May 1, 2004. Nomination forms, eligibility requirements and applications are available on the PAEMST Web site, <http://www.nsf.gov/pa>. OPI contact Sharon Mikat, 406-444-0906 or [smikat@state.mt.us](mailto:smikat@state.mt.us).

*More info:* The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers across the country from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If chosen by the national selection committee, awardees receive a special citation signed by the President of the United States, a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF), gifts from donors, and a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. in March to attend special recognition events.

### **News for Montana Small Schools Alliance**

Dr. Claudette Morton, Executive Director for the Montana Small Schools Alliance, was a guest presenter at The First Annual Policy Forum of the Center for Policy Studies, Education Research, and Community Development on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The symposium was on the No Child Left Behind Act and the Impact on Rural Schools in the Intermountain Region. It was for an invited audience of policy makers and education professionals. Dr. Morton's presentation was based on MSSA research on "The Challenges and Best Practices of Montana in Implementing the No Child Left Behind Act."